

WANT ALL FEEBLE-MINDED MADE WARDS OF STATE

Interesting Study of Defectives Being
Made by Miss Elizabeth
Webb.

ONLY CURE IS IN SEGREGATION
Would Prevent Subnormal People
From Marrying—State Board of
Charities and Corrections Gathering
Interesting Statistics.

An investigation is at present being carried on in Richmond which promises, if thoroughly followed up and acted upon, to close more than half of its feeble-minded, epileptics and prisoners to cut in half the number of asylums, reformatories and almshouses and to almost wipe out the social evil.

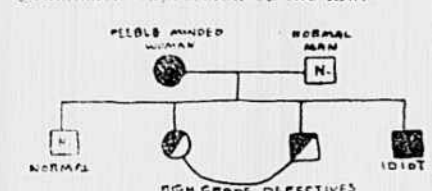
This sounds like a large order, a prediction of the millennium in fact, but so enthusiastic and so convinced of its possibility are those responsible for this movement that the most prejudiced, hard-headed investigator needs must be convinced also.

Briefly, the idea is for the State to segregate in a colony by themselves all the feeble-minded. Thus, the present generation of those unfortunate ones would not only be prevented from becoming criminals or paupers, but feeble-mindedness would, in three generations, practically disappear, as no one so afflicted would be permitted to marry. The whole subject of feeble-mindedness is one which has rushed into the limelight of late because of its obvious and vital importance in our whole national life. In its abolition, science sees the solving of half our social problems.

BASED ON MENDEL'S FAMOUS LAW OF HEREDITY

The basis of this idea is Mendel's famous law of heredity and its application to this particular subject.

In the fourteenth century an old monk, Gregor Mendel, began experimenting by crossing plant and dwarf peas, and discovered that there was a regular law to determine the results. It was later discovered that this law could be applied to all animals. When brought to bear on the subject of inherited feeble-mindedness, it may be stated in this way: If a feeble-minded man marries a normal woman, or vice versa, from four children, one will be normal, one an idiot, and two half-witted. The following table is a diagrammatic expression of the law.



THE MENDELIAN LAW

Exact statistics were obtained several years ago on the subject by minute investigation into the genealogy of an actual family known for convenience sake by the fictitious name of the Kallikak family, a Greek word meaning "good and bad."

INTERESTING STUDY IN GIRLS' ANCESTRY

Field workers for the Inland Institution became interested in a half-witted girl, who had been brought there when a child. They undertook to trace her ancestry, and went back as far as a great-great-grandmother, a feeble-minded girl whom her great-great-grandfather, a Revolutionary soldier, had met in a tavern. Investigation of the descendants of this feeble-minded girl revealed a healthy, normal family, moving in high walks of life and with a record to be proud of.

On the other hand, the descendants of the same soldier and the feeble-minded girl had among their numbers an appalling number of defectives, alcoholics, epileptics, criminals and degenerates. From 450 who have been investigated, 143 are, or were, feeble-minded, and the remainder of many of the rest is in doubt.



Specimens of the Feeble-Minded.

This investigation, together with many others, made it distressingly obvious that feeble-mindedness is purely hereditary, and not only hereditary, but an absolutely certain result of a union in which one or both of the parents are afflicted.

There are many characteristics of the mentally weak which make them peculiarly unfit members of society, not only a burden, but a menace. Their moral sense is, one thing, almost completely lacking, allowing them to easily fall a prey to their own desires, or to the evil designs of others.

BELIEVE CURE IS IN ENTIRE SEGREGATION

Believing that the only cure for the feeble-minded is segregation, and looking forward to a time when that may be possible in Virginia, the State Board of Charities and Corrections succeeded in persuading the last General Assembly to appropriate the sum of \$500 for the purpose of investigating the subject.

The idea is to get exact statistics on feeble-mindedness in its relation to insanity, epilepsy, hereditary pauperism, criminality and economic efficiency.

The investigation is being carried on by Miss Elizabeth Webb, from New York, a trained mental diagnostician, already well known in Richmond through her work last year testing in the schools. Miss Webb's interest was first attracted to the subject of the mentally deficient by her work in a slum kindergarten, where many of the children were obviously of that type. She gave up the kindergarten work and obtained a fellowship for study and original research at Vineland, a very well-known institution for mental defectives in New Jersey. In the very fine research laboratory there she took up four phases of the question: the physical, psychological, hereditary and the personal equation in testing for mental deficiency.

CRITICAL STUDIES MADE BY MISS WEBB

In the study of biochemistry, she made tests to discover what effect the elimination of calcium and phosphates have on Mendelian subjects, the lowest type of mental defectives. She also

Leading Fight on Feeble-Mindedness



Miss Elizabeth Webb.

investigated the Wasserman reactions in the feeble-minded, and took a great many anthropometric and cranial measurements of people of different mental ages.

After leaving Vineland, Miss Webb took post-graduate courses at Columbia College, and then taught for a while in New Jersey, handling feeble-minded, backward, non-English, and incoherent children.

Last year she came to Richmond and gave mental tests to children in the public schools here, the first that had ever been done in Virginia, with the idea of having all those found to be mentally deficient put in separate classes. Though the statistics obtained at that time have not been made public, it is known that the per cent found in schools of other cities is about 3 to 4 per cent of the school population, and there is no reason to suppose that Richmond is better off than they.

Under the auspices of the St. Paul's Men's Club, which provided the necessary funds, Miss Webb also tested last year practically all of the women in the segregated district, and made the appalling discovery, corroborated by other similar investigations in different cities, that 100 from every 120 were feeble-minded.

The method of testing is an interesting one, devised some years ago by the celebrated Frenchman Binet, and now universally used.

ORDERLY STAGE OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT

It was discovered, in the first place, that the senses, faculties and muscular control develop in a perfectly regular way, in about the same order for every one. By thousands of tests on thousands of children, it was found out, for example, that at the age of three a child can repeat only two numbers immediately, five at eight years of age, six at ten and seven at twelve. A child of three will enumerate objects in a picture, but will perceive no action in the picture until he is seven. Again, a child cannot copy a square until he is five years old, nor a diamond until he is seven. These figures are, of course, the averages determined by thousands of experiments with their help. Binet has arranged his wonderful graded series of questions accurately standardized to indicate the mental age of the subject. According to the answers to these questions are answered, together with the time taken to answer them, the patient's mental age is judged. The tests cover the development of mentality from the age of one year to that of twenty years. The mental and actual ages are identical, the subject is normal, when the mental age is three or four years below, or is retarded, when it is two or three years below.

SOME NO OLDER MENTALLY THAN THREE-YEAR-OLD BABY

Some defectives, while in perfect physical health, develop a mentality higher than that of a three-year-old baby. Perhaps the most dangerous class of subnormal people is those who are known as "morons," which are defectives who test just below the average of a normal child. They are given liberty and heavy responsibilities, and have to face the world with a mentality never higher than that of a fourteen or fifteen-year-old child.

Some of the questions used by Miss Webb in the Binet tests are very amusing, particularly considering their simplicity. Here is one: The patient is told to complete the following story: "My neighbor has a strange visitor. Yesterday I saw a doctor, a lawyer, a minister, a policeman. What has happened to my neighbor?" The patient is asked if they can discover anything remarkable in this statement. "The body of a girl was found out into eighteen pieces," the patient thinks she did it herself.

MAKING STUDY OF JAIL FREQUENTERS

These tests, combined with a careful study of character, allowed Miss Webb to apply every test just now with repeated in the jail. It might be imagined that those people whose minds are being tested would resent it. But such is not the case. So true is Miss Webb and so skillful in winning their confidence that she can always count them among her most sincere friends.

THEY ARE DOING FOR THE BOARD A GREAT WORK AND ONE WHOSE RESULTS, WHEN PUBLISHED, WILL BE FAR-REACHING.

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COLLEGE CLUB FORMED TO PROMOTE HIGHER EDUCATION

The College Club of the Virginia Randolph Elletts School held a very enthusiastic meeting last week. The club has been organized recently, and its purpose is to promote higher education, to apply the standards of the school by encouraging the members of the three upper classes to take the college examinations, and to unite

those interested in higher education for purposes of mutual pleasure and benefit. It is composed of girls who expect to go to college, or who are interested in promoting higher education.

Miss Elletts' School has, more, perhaps, than any other private school for girls in the city, taken a strong stand for higher education, and done a great deal to promote it.

It was through her agency that Richmond was made one of the eight cities in the United States where Bryn Mawr examinations are given, and many of her pupils take them every year. The Virginia Randolph Elletts Alumnae Association also does much to further the cause of higher education for girls. This organization, which is large, and includes many of the most prominent women in the city, maintains two annual college scholarships, besides having the power to award another at Sweetbrier. They have also, in the last few years, done a great deal to promote education on Richmond, by bringing here such interesting speakers as Helen Keller and Alfred Noyes, the poet.

A great deal of interest has been taken of late in the Montessori branch of the school, since it is the only place in Richmond where the methods of the great Italian educator are carried out. The Montessori class is just completing successfully its second year under the able management of Miss Cogan, who studied under Madame Montessori in Rome, and her two assistants, Miss Crenshaw and Miss Reeves. Miss Cogan will go to California next summer for further study, as a class will be given in San Francisco at that time.

BENEFIT PERFORMANCE FOR KINDERGARTEN WORK

The Richmond Kindergarten Association is hoping for large returns from a benefit performance to be given Tuesday at the Superior Theatre. The play is the "Wizard of Oz." The proceeds from the benefit will go to the support of the Mission Kindergarten on South Sixth Street. This school, which is full to capacity with thirty children, is taught by Miss Lucy Witt, assisted by seniors from the Richmond School for Kindergartners. Besides several hours of schooling and care, the children are each provided with a bread and milk lunch every day.

THE COLLEGE WOMAN'S CLUB WILL AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS

The College Woman's Club, which is a local branch of the Southern Association of College Women, announces that it has been able to secure two scholarships for girls, one at Randolph-Macon college, and one at Richmond College. These two scholarships, details of which will be published later, are only two of quite a number awarded through the Southern Association of College Women. Some of the other of which runs as high as \$200, are given by Barnard, Mt. Holyoke, Wellesley, Smith, University of Chicago, and many others. At a meeting of the College Woman's Club held last week, there was unanimously passed a motion stating that the club was in favor of the proposed Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

JAMES RIVER GARDEN CLUB HOLDS INTERESTING MEETING

There was a very interesting meeting of the James River Garden Club last week at the home of Mrs. M. C. Patterson, on the Cary Street Road. This organization, which was formed last March, has for its purpose the launching of what, it is hoped, will

SUFFERED 10 YEARS WITH HEMORRHOIDS

Caused Itching, Burning and Pain. Lost Sleep. Irritated and Inflamed. Used Cuticura. Permanent Relief in a Month.

Stephens City, Va.—"My father had been a chronic sufferer with hemorrhoids for ten or fifteen years. The disease first manifested itself in the form of bleeding hemorrhoids, and later developed into tumors as large as a hen's egg. Then he would be unable to work after some unusual exertion and could get no relief sitting or lying down. His trouble caused a great deal of itching, burning and pain. He lost a great deal of sleep. The affected parts were irritated and inflamed very much.

"It was during one of his severe attacks that I suggested to him the use of Cuticura Soap and Ointment. He found much relief from the itching and burning by bathing the affected parts with warm water and Cuticura Soap. After that he would apply the Cuticura Ointment. The first application relieved him considerably and after three applications he was able to go to work. He kept up this treatment for a month and was permanently cured." (Signed) Miss Barton Russell, October 27, 1914.

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With 32-p. Book on request. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. T, Boston." Hold throughout the world.

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Mrs. A. J. Pyle, 317 N. Fifth St.

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and you are sure of the correct Corset for your particular figure. Have it fitted by our expert Corsetiers and it will "cling" perfectly!

Splendid values at \$3.50, \$5.00, \$8.50.

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ADDRESS ON EQUAL SUFFRAGE AT SACRED HEART HALL

Mrs. B. B. Valentine, president of the Equal Suffrage League of Virginia, will make an address on equal suffrage at Sacred Heart Hall, corner of Floyd Avenue and Spruce Street, on Monday evening, April 26, at 8:15 o'clock.

The arrangements were initiated by Catholic members of the Richmond League, and it is expected that large numbers of Catholics will attend to welcome Mrs. Valentine in her first address in this hall. The audience will not, however, be exclusively Catholic, as this address will be interesting to every one, and the public is urged to attend. Miss Emily Garth Houston will be chairman, and will introduce the speaker.

ART CLUB OF RICHMOND TO HEAR ADMIRAL WEBSTER

At the Art Club on Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock Admiral Webster will give an interesting talk entitled "Where the Cock Crows." It is not necessary to do more than announce a lecture from Admiral Webster for the club members to be crowded, but for those who have never had the pleasure of hearing him, it will prove a delightful treat. Tea will be served after the lecture.

WILL HEAR CITY OFFICIALS ON SOCIAL WELFARE

The General Council of Social Workers of Richmond will hold an important meeting Tuesday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock sharp at the Young Men's Christian Association, corner of Seventh and Grace Streets. The question to be discussed will be "The City Itself as a Social Agency." George S. Crenshaw, City Auditor, will speak on the question of "The Social Duty of the City." John Hirschberg, of the Administrative Board, will speak on "What Richmond Is Doing Socially." Rev. W. A. Cooper, president of the Council, will speak on "The Necessity of a Board of Public Welfare."

The public is cordially invited to attend this meeting.

EVERY MONDAY CLUB JOINS FEDERATION

The Every Monday Club of Richmond voted at its meeting last week to become a member of the Federations of

WOMAN'S CLUBS OF VIRGINIA.

The following delegates were elected to the State convention of the association, which is to be held at Fairfax Court-house from May 12 to 15: Mrs. G. Harvey Clarke, Mrs. A. L. Stratford, Mrs. D. R. Anderson and Mrs. Benjamin Crump.

The purpose of the Federations of Woman's Clubs is to diminish illiteracy in the State, and the special program of Every Monday Club, of which Mrs. M. L. Caldwell is president, has this winter been the study of the classic drama.

WOMEN'S MEETINGS.

There will be a meeting of the Story Teller's League on Wednesday afternoon at 5 o'clock in the auditorium of the Mechanics' Institute. Spring stories will be told, and it is hoped that there will be a large gathering of children and grown-ups. The proceeds of the meeting will be used for the storybook library.

At a recent session of the Grandchildren's Chapter, Auxiliary No. 1 to Richmond Chapter, U. D. C., a number of pins were provided for this organization.

All members desiring these badges are asked to communicate at once with Mrs. J. P. Feureguren. Orders will not be taken after April 30.

The Lady Macabees of Richmond

will hold a joint meeting Wednesday afternoon promptly at 2:30 o'clock with Jefferson Hiler, Twenty-fifth and Marshall Streets. All members of the order are urged to be present, as Miss Englund, State commander, will be present and plans for special work for Richmond during the month of May will be made, as well as reports from the delegates that attended the State convention in Norfolk, where the Richmond Union Degree team was highly complimented on its splendid work. About seventy-five women from Richmond attended the State convention.

FRONT ROYAL

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] FRONT ROYAL, VA., April 24.—Kinzel Laws, William Hines and William Emmery were in Richmond this week attending the State Council meeting of the Order of Fraternal Americans.

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